

1952

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Note:

*1st Summary
Condensed draft
2d Draft with
Chief FAD revisions*

This is a summary of a report on the development of the Foreign Documents Division which was too long for insertion here. The full report is thoroughly documented and contains many interesting details which warrant examination if consideration is eventually to be given to extending the functions of the Division as a service of common concern.

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Office of Operations

Foreign Documents Division

Foreign Documents Division is the development under CIA, of operations initiated in five war-born organizations of the Department of War and Navy. The five organizations involved were the Pacific Military Intelligence Research Section (PACMIRS), Op-32Flhl Section of ONI, Washington Document Center (WDC), German Military Document Section (GMDS), and Special Document Section of G-2 (SDS).

PACMIRS was established at Camp Ritchie, Maryland, under MIS, G-2, WDGS, on 6 September 1944.

OP-32Flhl was established by the Office of Naval Intelligence as the naval counterpart of PACMIRS in Washington, D.C.

Washington Document Center, established February 1945, was the joint Army-Navy clearing house for captured Japanese documents received from the Far Eastern theaters.

PACMIRS mission was the strategic-level exploitation of the Japanese material pointed mainly to Army and Air interest. OP-32Flhl similarly exploited for primarily naval interests.

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PACMIRS was manned by U.S. Army officers and enlisted men, including Nisei personnel, recently graduated from the Army's Japanese-language schools or returned from interpreter and translation service overseas; with Navy personnel in the Air Section, and with details of British and Canadian military personnel. WDC also was supported by Army and Navy personnel for the receiving and screening processes. OP-32F141 was staffed primarily by US Navy officers who were graduates of the Navy's Japanese-Language/Schools and officers of the British and Canadian Navies.

At the close of the war with Japan, Army and Navy jointly established the Washington Document Center (Advance) echelon in Tokyo and in six months this unit collected, selected and evacuated 650,000 captured document items to Washington, D.C.

During these six months, embracing the turn of the year 1945-1946, the entire Japanese document exploitation venture was in the process of merger as a joint Army-Navy operation and on 17 April 1946, PACMIRS,

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OP-32F141 and WDC combined in one location, assuming the existing name of Washington Document Center for the whole. This was the actual inception of what is today FDD.

WDC continued as a military operation for little more than seven months, the latter of which were involved in prospective transfer into the relatively new Central Intelligence Group. The Army and Navy, increasingly precarious as sponsors because of post-war budget cuts, were planning the abandonment, or at best the drastic de-emphasizing, of the operation.

During the war, German Military Documents Section had operated under the War Department at Fort Hunt, south of Alexandria, and shortly after the war, the Special Document Section, also under the War Department, had been set up at Holabird Signal Depot, near Baltimore to exploit captured German documents for information on the USSR.

While not involved in the initial adoption of WDC by CIG on 1 December 1946, GMDS and SDS were later to meld their operations in document exploitation under the Document Center in CIG.

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Negotiations involving Army, Navy and CIG had been initiated during the late summer of 1946 relative to centralizing the document exploitation effort under Central Intelligence Group control.

There were a number of meetings between representatives of the services and CIG which resulted in the latter taking over the operation on 1 December, 1946 in quarters at The T/O which called for 151 Army, Navy and civilian personnel was filled only to the extent of 98 positions. Further under CIG, no British or Canadian personnel could be retained and there was consequent loss of specialists in certain languages.

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On 30 December, 1946 the name Washington Document Center was abandoned but business continued under the designation of Documents Branch, Office of Operations, Central Intelligence Group. Its mission was to provide CIG with current intelligence information on foreign countries, as found available in foreign language publications.

Personnel shortages continued to increase the backlog of work and the strict requirements for security clearance made recruitment

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more than usually difficult. Also complicating the problem was the return of numerous military personnel to civilian life and their desire in many cases to seek employment outside Washington.

As of 29 June 1947, the functions of the Army's Special Documents Section and the German Military Documents Section were assumed by CIG. The Documents Branch was redesignated Foreign Documents Branch and reorganized to include a scientific and technical division, a documents source survey division and two area divisions for "world-wide coverage." With assimilation of SDS and QMDS, FDB took over the huge project of the Industrial Card File and the screening, exploitation and cataloguing of German captured documents. Personnel shortages continued. T/O's were more theoretical than otherwise because of the difficulties of recruitment and the imposition of "ceilings" by Management.

In view of the shortage of linguistic personnel, establishment of a central translation service in FDB was authorized in November, 1947. In June, 1948 the Branch took over from ORE, its only field unit, the

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"Sunshine" project at Hoover Library, Stanford University, Palo Alto,

California. This was discontinued on 30 September 1948, as it was considered that the most important elements of its special task had been completed during its operation by ORE for a year previous and that the foreign publications of interest largely duplicated those available in Washington. Regardless of T/O "slots", regardless of ceilings, FDB's recruitment continued far short of meeting the allowances.

The difficulty lay in finding intelligence officers with a subject specialty and linguistic ability. Many with such qualifications preferred to work in their subject specialty rather than in language work.

Others needed more proficiency in the foreign language or in English.

FDD meanwhile undertook to train a number of its own personnel in the

rarer languages. As of 1 January 1949, the roster carried only 138

personnel, under a T/O of 246 and a ceiling of 206 for the coming

quarter. Nevertheless despite objection, the T/O was reduced to 200

effective as of 1 January 1950, with the result that numerous internal

organizational changes had to be effected, among them the dissolution

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of the Translation Service Division. The latter action was based on the finding that straight translation was too tedious and boring, but that when spiced with the variety and initiative-provoking aspects of exploitation and abstracting, personnel could be retained more easily.

In July, 1949, the Branch was moved from L Street to Temporary



With the reorgani-

zation in prospect at the time of the move, plans for allocation of space had been made with this in mind. Upon the approval of the T/O late in August, little confusion resulted and the organization was thus established in the form which was to stand substantially unchanged for two years. Against the T/O allowance, recruitment slowly edged upwards 177 in December, 1949; 186 in December, 1950.

As early as 1948 attempts were made to overcome the backlog of translations by an "overtime program" but even this extra work made only small gains. However, as 1950 drew to a close the demands for translation service by the CIA offices were such as obviously to call for enlargement of facilities. It was estimated there were 90,000 pages

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of classified translation in prospect and that an additional 37,000 pages of unclassified material would be desired during the year. To help cope with the load, arrangements were made for processing this unclassified material on a commercial basis at the rate of \$4.40 a page, and an addition of 82 slots was approved in the T/O. In May and June, 1951, additional space was provided in

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With the integration into CIG of Washington Document Center on 1 December 1946, came the bulk of 650,000 captured Japanese documents. A small number of documents had been received through State, War and Navy channels and about 10,000 documents a month were being received from G-2, SCAP's current collection. Documents Branch was at that time screening them for (a) their intelligence value, (b) storage as of possible future value, (c) interest to American industry through the Department of Commerce. Documents of no intelligence value or industrial interest were to be turned over to the Library of Congress or National Archives. As a result of this screening DB was preparing an average of 2,500 abstracts weekly. By mid-1949 the majority of the

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captured documents had been processed and the emphasis was almost entirely on current publications.

In April 1947, the functions of DB were amended to allow for the making of abstracts of current foreign periodicals which might be obtained as temporary loans from the Library of Congress and other sources. When initiated this coverage pertained only to the USSR and the Far East.

This endeavor through gradual evolvement produced "Scientific Abstracts" and "General Abstracts." The former has continued almost without interruption since the issue of No. 1 on 6 August 1947. The "General" series was discontinued after a little more than a year, in favor of information reports.

As has been mentioned above, the Documents Branch was so seriously understaffed that consideration had to be given as to which of its functions might be curtailed. It was proposed that accession lists of captured documents be discontinued, and only those of current

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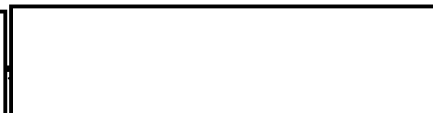
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material be issued. Attention was given to the refinement of requirements especially from ORE.

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Some of the USSR pro-

vincial newspapers not available in the U.S. contained information on industrial installations of considerable interest. Thus FDB undertook the exploitation of the Soviet provincial press which later expanded to include the entire Soviet press available.

With the heavy work load increasing, the matter of priorities became a problem. Early in 1948 with a strength allowed of 269 and a ceiling of 225, the personnel on duty numbered only 120. The situation was somewhat ameliorated by the establishment of a "translation pool" in which provisionally cleared personnel could be put to work on "restricted" material.

Late in March 1948, production was begun on bibliographies of Soviet periodicals. These publications numbering 656 were continued

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for a year, when the task was undertaken by the Library of Congress.

Three new units were added to the Branch in May - Near East/Africa, Eastern Europe, and Documents Screening and Reference.

From April through July, 1949 an ad hoc "Committee on Foreign Document Exploitation" met weekly to consider coordination. The Committee agreed that FDD should continue and should expand its exploitation as a service of common concern and drew up a proposed NSCID to cover this. Unfortunately agreement could not be reached on its terms among the IAC agencies and the matter was dropped. It was revived in March, 1951 and eleven months later (February, 1952) is being considered once more.

As FDB expanded its coverage, the exploitation of the foreign language press had met with favor in the consuming agencies. Coverage gradually expanded to exploitation of press and publications of the Satellites, the Far East, the Near East and Africa. Exploitation took the form of individual subject reports which could be prepared, published and disseminated rapidly to the interested consumer.

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From the early days of FDD the coordination of all IAC translation had loomed as a desirable goal. Gradual progress was made toward this and in October 1949, FDB published its first Consolidated Translation Survey informing the IAC agencies of all translation-exploitation work completed or initiated during the preceding month. This service continues in conjunction with a Central Document Exploitation File in which all translation reports are cross indexed as an aid to special inquiries and requirements. As of 1 January 1952 this file included some 70,000 cards, cross indexing about 20,000 different entries.

June, 1951 saw the activation of a Western European Branch and the completion of the USSR railroad systems project. This project, inherited by the Division in 1947 when Special Documents Section was taken over from the Army, covered 41 systems, on information largely derived from captured German documents, which was later supplemented by more current information. A similar project on Sattelite systems was immediately undertaken.

In June, 1947 a Documents Source Survey Division (DSSD) was

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established to keep abreast of foreign publications lists, preparing a periodic review of documents of intelligence value and meeting requirements for intensive subject or area surveys on document sources. In August, 1949 DSSD was combined with the Screening and Reference Section to become the Documents Control Division. Through these sources about 2000 foreign language documents reach FDD daily for screening, either on loan or for retention.

The difficulty of obtaining USSR publications created the necessity of procurement through "third country" means.

The Library of Congress, Yale University, and certain German institutions have been of assistance in providing a number of Slavic publications not usually available. In the course of four years, 1948 through 1951, FDD processed 673,742 foreign documents received through the cooperation of the following agencies:

State - 421,821; Army - 67,724; Navy - 8,716; CIA - 127,962;

Library of Congress - 41,530; Smithsonian Institute - 5,989

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CHAPTER IV

HISTORY OF FOREIGN DOCUMENTS DIVISION

1946 - 1952

Section A

Foreign Documents Division - development under CIA of operation initiated in five war-born organizations of the Departments of War and Navy - Pacific Military Intelligence Research Section (PACMIRS), Op-32FL41 Section of ONI, Washington Document Center (WDC), German Military Document Section (GMDS), and Special Document Section of G-2 (SDS).

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PACMIRS manned by US Army officers and enlisted men, including Nisei personnel; with Navy personnel in the Air Section, and with details of British and Canadian military personnel. WDC also supported by Army and Navy personnel for receiving and screening processes. Op-32FL41 staffed primarily by US Navy officers - graduates of Navy's Japanese-Language and officers of the British and Canadian Navies.

At the close of war with Japan, Army and Navy jointly established the Washington Document Center in Tokyo, and in six months this unit collected, selected and evacuated 650,000 captured document items to Washington.

On 17 April 1946, PACMIRS, OP-32FL41 and WDC combined in one location, assuming the existing name of Washington Document Center - actual inception of FDD.

During the war, German Military Documents Section had operated under War Department at Fort Hunt, and shortly after the war, the Special Document Section - under War Department - had been set up at Holabird Signal Depot, near Baltimore to exploit captured German documents for information on the USSR.

Section B

Negotiations initiated in 1946 relative to centralizing the document exploitation effort under CIG control.

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Maj. Gen. S. J. Chamberlin, DI, WDGS, on 3 October addressed the DCI in a memorandum to the effect that the present military strength would be retained until 1 December and that transfer to CIG of War Department civilian personnel employed at WDC had been approved by the War Department.

In an 11 October memorandum of [] of ORE it was recommended that provision be made in CIG for the WDC Table of Organization, totaling 151, for the period 1 December 1946 to 1 July 1947.

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[] executive to the Director of Central Intelligence on 27 November, writing to the Sec. of Navy stated that "in pursuance of the request received from General Chamberlin (then AC of S, G-2) and Admiral Inglis (DNI) the Central Intelligence Group would take over operation of the Washington Document Center on 1 December 1946. The transfer of WDC to CIG was marked by a physical move of the organization from the Stuart Building to 1340 L Street, N.W., November 30, 1946"

16 December 1946 the Assistant Executive Director instructed the AD/O that no Allied Force personnel might be assigned to WDC.

On 30 December 1946 WDC was given a new designation "Documents Branch" of OO/CIG. - an organization for the exploitation of foreign documents. It's mission -- to provide the CIG with current intelligence information on foreign countries as found available in foreign language publications."

CIG had exclusive security clearance requirements.

10/1/47 - great backlog of work - 350 Accession Lists and current receipts of 10,000 captured documents and current periodicals per month.

Formal relief of Commander Little, as Chief, DB, was announced 28 February 1947 in a memorandum of the DAD/OO and effective 1 March, Mr. J. J. Bagnall was named as Acting Chief. However, on 13 March, Mr. Bagnall was named Chief, DB, by AD/O General Sibert.

The AD/O on 27 June announced the reorganization and redesignation of Documents Branch. SDS and GMDS would be transferred to CIG as of 29 June 1947. Documents Branch was redesignated "Foreign Documents Branch" and reorganized to include a scientific and technical division, a documents source survey division, and two area divisions for "world-wide coverage." The Chief, Documents Branch [] was designated as Deputy Chief and Acting Chief of the new Foreign Documents Branch.

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April 2 the publication of Periodical Abstracts culled from Japanese current publications was started.

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The reorganization approved, as of 10 June 1947 allowed a T/O of 250, but proposed transfer of personnel from SDS and GMDS met with poor success due to CIG security requirements. There were increased demands for reproduction and publication constituted a large problem. Branch was facing increasing difficulties of recruiting and clearing against the ordered decrease of military personnel.

Section C

Growth and Development

New T/O for FDB in June 1947 - called for 250 and stood until revision in December so as to include a Translation Service Division.

Establishment of a central translation service in FDB authorized in Administrative Instruction 50-14.

June 1948 saw FDB operating its lone field unit -- the "Sunshine" Project at Hoover Library on War and Revolution, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California. Project taken over from ORE on 4 May 1948 after the latter had fostered it for a year.

Former Library Section absorbed in a new Documents Screening & Reference Division. Satellite coverage assigned to a new Eastern European Division, segregated from USSR Division. Branch coverage expanded with creation of Near East/Africa Division.

As reviewed 1 June 1949 by [REDACTED]: "many obstacles to recruitment have appeared during the past eighteen months ... exacting standards of excellence ... estimated 650 applicants screened since January 1948..." 25X1

However, a stable and continuing increase in acceptable candidates was evident and more had been employed in three months than during the previous year.

4/8/49 - personnel cuts - This reorganization involved readjustments and reassignments among the area branch personnel; redesignated Documents Source Survey Division as Documents Control Division with two sections -- Survey, and Reference and Screening; removed the former Records and Editorial sections from Administration and combined them under a new Reports Division composed of three sections -- Editorial, records, and Composition and Layout. The Translation Service Division was dissolved in favor of carrying out its functions in the area branches. 25X1

The Branch was moved from the L and 14th Street, NW., building to three second floor wings of [REDACTED]

Early in 1948 an "overtime program" was initiated by FDB in an attempt to reduce a backlog of translations and later to provide for greater press and periodical exploitation and meet the demands for translation service.

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FDD allowed additional linguists and typists for more efficient processing of the translation requirements.

25X1 In May 1951 preparations were made to take over a fourth wing of the second floor of [] to accommodate the swelling organization.

June 1951 a Western European Branch was formed.

An ex-officio Special Language Section was organized under expert multilingual specialists late in June 1951.

Section D

Field Organizations

25X1 [] had visited the Hoover Library on 2-6 December 1946 and reported on its large volume of Far Eastern documents, on hand and being received, in a memorandum to the DCI on 18 December. He reported that cooperation of library authorities was available for establishment of a CIG research unit on the ground to process Russian, Chinese and Japanese documents for intelligence information.

25X1 [] of DB/00 attached to CRE to screen the Hoover collection and make arrangements for transmission of copies of valuable material to Washington. Documents Branch disagreed, so [] returned to Washington 29 May 1947.

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A year later the operation was turned over to FDB.

12 May 1948 FDB recommended that Sunshine be discontinued as a project which had fulfilled its mission, and which was outweighed 10 to one by the material currently being received in Washington.

On 2 July 1948 DCI ordered termination of the project as of 30 September 1948.

Section E

Sources, Coverage and Production

WDC was operating with the bulk of 650,000 captured Japanese documents as its main source material.

Documents Branch was preparing an average of 2,500 abstracts weekly as a result of this screening, and exploitation was proceeding from a review of these abstracts against the requests produced by the agencies receiving the abstracts.

The organization had a potential of 31 different languages, and the anticipated future for DB was that all major languages of the world would be exploited.

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Functions of Documents Branch had been set down as follows in the budget presentation of 17 January 1947:

"To receive foreign documents for cataloging, summarizing, and translation

- To prepare subject lists of accessions for distribution
- To prepare extracts and summaries from documents as required
- To prepare accurate translations of documents as required
- To provide technical, liaison with similar activities
- To dispose of documents when no longer needed."

Publication of **Periodical Abstracts** began on 2 April 1947, under the customary DB format. This style discontinued on 23 June after five issues. Resumption came in July, with production of "Scientific abstracts," and "General abstracts." The first issue under this plan was Scientific No. 1, 6 August 1947 - still continues, last issue of 1951 being No. 185. The "General" series discontinued 9 November 1948. "Periodical Abstracts" are published in card-cut form, eight to a page, with about 120 entries in the average issue.

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[redacted] proposed a "Dynamic Approach to Document Exploitation" which would employ a more efficient use of the vast amount of documents and the trained personnel for the processing and evaluation. He proposed that a detailed over-all plan of requirements on the USSR and Far East be drawn up by ORE; that intra-area priorities be assigned for basic information; that accession lists of captured documents be discontinued; that accession lists of only current material be issued, and that FDB undertake as a basic program the development of information from the ORE requirements and the priorities as established.

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In May, a CIG move had been made toward coordination of foreign press exploitation among the IAB agencies, the Executive Director, Capt.

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[redacted] proposing a study be made in the interests of efficiency and economy.

Authorization for FDB to cooperate with the JIB in processing fifty percent of the material and that the extracts and translations resulting from FDB and JIB work would be exchanged. FDB published its first Soviet Press Extracts on 26 January 1948.

Translation Service Division established in the FDB organization, 26 Dec. 1947.

A "translation pool" was established in which provisionally cleared personnel awaiting final reception into CIA could be employed.

FDB functions read in the organization chart for OO of 23 June 1948
"Exploits foreign language documents including current foreign periodicals and the foreign press, for intelligence information."

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Arrangements were completed in May by which all USSR publications received would be channeled to FDB by the State Department. Branch also contemplating the processing of Scandinavian and Near East periodicals.

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[REDACTED] found in Germany about 200 tons of documents of interest to Washington agencies.

Work produced was to be disseminated by OCD.

Three new divisions were added to the branch in July: Near East/Africa, Eastern Europe, and the Documents Screening and Reference Divisions, expanding the branch area coverage and providing for more efficient processing of documents received.

In December there arose the question of the value of FDB's translation pool. However, DCI approved the continuation of the linguist pool in FDB on 7 January 1949.

By agreement with IAC, an Ad Hoc Committee on "Foreign Document exploitation" was established at final meeting of the Ad Hoc "Committee on Translations" 11 April 1949.

Four conclusions of this Committee:

- a. The CIA should assume responsibility for over-all coordination of exploitation of foreign language documents.
- b. A permanent Foreign Document Exploitation Committee should be established in order to draw up lists of publications; to determine the priorities; and to generally assist the DCI in the exploitation program.
- c. Each IAC member agency may retain, at its discretion, a translation and/or abstracting unit for the purpose of translation and/or abstracting special interest material.
- d. A National Security Council Directive should be formulated embodying the recommendations outlined above.

"High Speed Press" procedure - designed to process, exploit and publish daily press material within 48 hours of reception of the original material in the branch.

A "Special Series" of translation service inaugurated early in 1948.

First Consolidated Translation Survey published October 1949, informing the IAC agencies of all translation/exploitation work completed or initiated during the preceding month.

June 1950, outbreak of Korean hostilities, conferences concerning FDB's role in relation to captured documents were held with Army, Navy, and Air Force.

June saw the completion of the USSR railroad systems project.

Personnel were trained - language courses during 1951.

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Section F

Special Divisional Functions and Problems

Documents Source Survey Division was to "survey world-wide sources of foreign documents and to determine existence and availability of those of actual or potential intelligence value."

With reorganization of the Foreign Documents Division, 24 August 1949, DSSD became the Documents Control Division.

6 July 1948 DSSD initiated its "SOCHI" project whereby Chinese consular posts in the eastern USSR were to be utilized as collectors of provincial USSR serials.

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June 1949 - special arrangement was made via CIA Library with the Library of Congress to permit FDD to receive directly on loan current receipts of selected number of USSR periodicals.

With integration into CIG, the reproduction services for illustrative material was transferred from the War Department facilities to the CIG without delay in publication.

FDB turned over its first requisitions to Reproduction Division on 20 January 1948.

3 September 1948 - Memo of the AD/O on the Functions of FDB stated: "Coordinates with CIA offices and other government agencies in the continuous exploitation of foreign language material in order to meet established requirements."

Monthly publication of a "Consolidated Translation Survey" proposed in which would be listed all the recorded translations started or completed during the preceding month.

From the time of the integration with CIG until early in 1951 liaison was conducted through O/CD.

The establishment and maintenance of liaison with the Departments of State, and Defense was the individual responsibility of division chiefs.

FDD had several projects during 1951 - one required the translation from English into 23 languages for composition into "Pointee-Talkee" booklets and "Blood Chits."

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